Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

. . 1919 . .

To the Chairman and Members of the BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my annual report upon the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1919.

Birth Rate.

During 1919 there have been registered in the district 76 births (40 males, 36 females) giving a birth-rate of 18·7 per 1,000 of population. This is a decrease on last year's number, which was 20·5. The average for the last 10 years is 23·9, so it will be noted that our number this year is rather low.

Death Rate.

We have had 63 deaths during the year, which gives a death-rate of 16·1 per 1000 of population. This is considerably lower than last year's figure, which was 20·7, and very high. The average death-rate for the last 10 years is 13·8.

The causes of death are as follows :—

Zymotic Disease—

Diarrhœa	1
Diphtheria	3

Non-Tubercular Disease of Lungs—

Bronchitis	4
Pneumonia	5
Phthisis	6
Other Tubercular disease ...	1

All Other Causes—

Influenza	11
Cancer	5
Organic heart disease	7
Cirrhosis of liver	1
Congenital debility	4
Other defined diseases ...	17
Total	63

Infantile Mortality.

We have had 11 deaths of infants under 1 year out of 76 births. This gives a rate of 144 per 1000 births. The number is very high. Last year it was 128, and the average for the past 10 years is 119.

Causes of Infants' Deaths.

Marasmus 1, Bronchitis 2, Broncho Pneumonia 4, Premature Birth 3, Gastro Enteritis 1.—Total 11.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

During the year 33 cases of infectious disease have been notified.

Scarlet Fever	2	
Diphtheria	2	
Pneumonia	9	
Erysipelas	4	
Phthisis	3	
Malaria	1	
Other tubercular disease ...	4	(non-pulmonary)
Puerperal fever	1	
Typhoid fever...	1	(non-resident)
Poliomyelitis	1	
Measles	5	
Total	33	

Last year the number was 59 including 40 cases of measles. This year we have only 5 cases of measles reported, so the other notifiable diseases are in greater number than last year, being 28 compared with 19 last year. We have 9 cases of pneumonia notified. Some of these were during the very severe epidemic of influenza which we had during the early part of the year, when it became necessary to close the Schools for a period of 5 weeks during February and March. Since then we have had no other epidemic, but cases of influenza have occurred at intervals during the remainder of the year. There were 2 cases only removed to Hospital during the year, 1 Scarlet Fever and 1 Diphtheria.

Sanitary Condition of District.

This remains fairly satisfactory, although we have not been able to carry out improvements as we should have liked owing to unsettled conditions. Two conversions of privy closets to flush water closets have taken place. No new property has been built during the year.

Number of Houses in District.

859. A few are empty, being unfit for habitation.

Conveniences in the District.

Privy Closets	371
Flush Water Closets ...	365
Slop Closets	38
Pails	23
Ashpits	264
Galvanised Bins	342
Wood Ash Bins	24
Total ...	1427

Smoke Observations.

No cause for complaint.

Sewage Affluent.

Very satisfactory.

Water Supply.

Excellent in quality, but further supply necessary for new property and conversions of closets.

Notices have been served as follows :—

Damp Houses	6
Delapidated Closets	1
Insufficient Closets	3
Dangerous Property	2
Defective Closet Fittings ...	1
,, Slop Pipe	1
,, Drains	4
Dirty House	1
Dangerous Colliery Shaft ...	1
Total ...	20

All houses were disinfected after cases of infectious disease.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Inspected; lime washing and cleansing satisfactory.

Bakehouses.

No public ones; private one satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses.

No public ones; private one is kept very clean, but building requires repairing.

The General Health

During the first half of the year was very poor, although later in the year it improved somewhat, still we had much sickness. We never were free from Influenza, some cases occurring here and there all through the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. W. UNSWORTH,
M.O.H.